

# The European Dermatology Forum (EDF)

A non-profit professional organization dedicated to improve the quality of healthcare in Europe, promote the highest standard of undergraduate educational training, and to strengthen the impact of dermatology in the medical community, governmental forums and the society



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Dermatology  
Forum**

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## WHAT IS THE EDF?

- a non-profit professional organization dedicated to improve skin health in Europe and to strengthen the impact of dermatology in the medical community, governmental forums and the society.
- the EDF was founded in 1997 by a group of leading European Professors of Dermatology. The EDF is currently restricted to 200 active members, all key opinion leaders in dermato-venereology across Europe.

## VISION

The EDF strives to promote skin health across Europe and support the highest standards of patient care.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The EDF aims to realize its vision by bringing together leading dermatologists, associated colleagues and affiliated organizations.

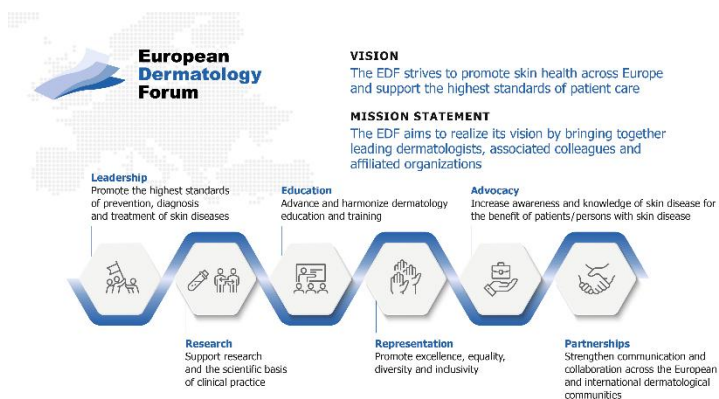
## AIMS

The specific aims of the EDF are to:

- 1| To promote the highest possible standards of prevention, diagnosis and treatment of skin diseases and facilitate access to appropriate care.
- 2| To improve knowledge and understanding of the structure and function of skin, the burden and impact of dermato-venereological disease through research so that the medical community, government organizations, healthcare providers, patients and society in general may be better informed.
- 3| To promote equality, diversity and inclusivity in all aspects of dermatology care, research and education.
- 4| To strengthen and maintain the quality of undergraduate and postgraduate dermatological training.

5| To provide independent advice and facilitate communication between dermatologists and European organizations concerned with improving the quality of skin care including industry, academia, government, patient organizations and society.

6| To work with UEMS and other European Societies to develop and regularly update a description of the competencies of the dermatology and venereology profession.



## EDF Structure

### LEGAL ENTITY

The EDF is an independent, non-profit association registered in Switzerland.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors is comprised of 12 elected EDF members from 11 European countries. Members are elected at the Annual General Assembly:

Prof. Antonio Costanzo, Milan, Italy

Prof. Charlotta Enerbäck, Linköping, Sweden

Prof. Alexander Enk, Heidelberg, Germany

Prof. Ana-Maria Forsea, Bucharest, Romania

Prof. Josep Malvehy, Barcelona, Spain

Prof. Alexander Navarini, Basel, Switzerland

Prof. Nick Reynolds, Newcastle, UK  
Prof. Marie-Aleth Richard, Marseille, France  
Prof. Miklós Sárdy, Budapest, Hungary  
Prof. Michael Schön, Göttingen, Germany  
Prof. Alexander Stratigos, Athens, Greece  
Prof. Kaisa Tasanen-Määttä, Oulu, Finland

Prof. Thomas Kündig, Zurich, Switzerland, Associate  
Board Member

## **MEMBERS**

Membership is on an invitation basis. A maximum of 200 active members, all of whom are opinion leaders in dermatology, and EDF members representing 32 European countries constitute the EDF membership.

## **CORPORATE PARTNERS**

The EDF enjoys a strong collaborative partnership with industry partners (currently 12 companies) from the pharma- and biotech industry. We offer our partners the possibility to actively partake in the EDF Annual Meetings by giving a lecture in the Industry Symposium, and participating in One- to-one Meetings with the Board of Directors. We thank our Corporate Partners for their generous support of our activities and programs.

## **Notable achievements of the EDF**

### **GUIDELINES**

The EDF launched the EuroGuiDerm European Centre for Guideline Development in 2018 to serve as a reliable, central point of reference for high-quality guidelines and consensus statements. Guidelines are based on evidence that has been identified and analyzed according to internationally accepted, transparent methods, and expert synthesis. In order to enhance this important work, the EDF and EADV have formed a new alliance to support the development of living and new European dermatology guidelines: the “EDF/EADV European Guidelines Alliance”.

In addition, we are happy to announce our new collaboration with EDF member Prof. Dr. Dr. Enno Schmidt from the

Lübeck Institute for Experimental Dermatology (LIED), Clinic for Dermatology, Allergology and Venereology at the University of Lübeck. We are also grateful that EDF member Prof. Alexander Nast from the Charité Berlin and Director of the EuroGuiDerm European Centre, will further continue his alliance with the EDF and EADV.

This year, the chapter on pregnancy in the living psoriasis guideline has been updated and is currently under review for final approval. The chapters on systemic therapy of the living atopic eczema guidelines are currently being updated. In addition to the publication of the updated chapters on the website, publication in the JEADV is planned. The guidelines on lichen sclerosus, which was finalized last year, has now been published in an abridged form in the JEADV. The long version is available on the website. Further ongoing activities are an update of the urticaria guideline with the consensus conference scheduled for December and acne guideline with ongoing evidence synthesis, working group meetings and consensus meetings in fall and winter. We would also encourage other EDF members with an interest in guidelines, who would like to actively participate in this project, to get in touch with the EDF office.

## **EDF WHITE BOOK**

In 2020, the 6th Edition of the White Book was published under the management of Prof Harald Gollnick (chief ed.) with the collaboration of Profs J. Barker, M. Bagot, L. Naldi, and N. Reynolds. The EDF White Book contains critical information about the all spectrum of dermato-venereology and describes the burden of skin and sexually transmitted diseases in Europe. It outlines the high impact of skin and sexually transmitted diseases and their management and provides up- to-date information on key areas of clinical and scientific advance. The current edition has particularly emphasized economics, morbidity and burden of disease, as well as new developments in diagnostics and therapies. The EDF White Book is structured to be of use and interest to dermato- venereologists, other physicians, the pharmaceutical industry and policy makers including medical school and hospital administrators as well as health politicians and patient organizations.

## **ANNUAL MEETINGS**

The EDF organizes a 2-day Annual General Meeting in January with an outstanding scientific program including plenary lectures, interactive forums, industry symposia, working group meetings and reports, as well as reports from its European Sister Societies. The EDF Annual Meeting is attended by over 200 delegates including EDF members, Corporate partners and guests. The high quality of the scientific program and interactive platform for constructive networking make it a highlight for key opinion leaders in dermatology across Europe.

## **HARMONIZING EDUCATION**

The EDF actively strives to promote and harmonize high quality education and teaching of dermato-venereology within the medical curricula for students across Europe. The EDF supports the internet platform Cyberderm ([www.cyberderm.net](http://www.cyberderm.net)), a peer reviewed interactive, systematic and case-oriented, multilingual online dermatology e-learning platform for undergraduate students in Medicine which is also complemented by a webbook. This activity is also supported by a grant awarded by the EU Erasmus Plus Program for the project "Harmonized European Derma- to-Venereology Undergraduate Blended Learning Implementation and Training (HEDU\_LEARN\_IT)".

## **LOBBYING**

The EDF invests considerable energy into promoting and defending the interests of dermatology and patients with skin disease in Europe.

Besides the White Book as a communication tool, the EDF fosters active contact with opinion leaders in academia, industry and politics at a European level.

## **EUROPEAN DERMATOLOGY LIAISON COMMITTEE**

A Liaison Committee for European Dermatology Societies meets under the umbrella of the EDF on an annual basis to define common goals and achieve consensus in strategic domains relevant to European Dermatology. Amongst these

members are EADV, ESDR, SSF, ILDS, UEMS, EADO, IUSTI, as well as ad hoc exchanges with other European societies.

## **EDF EURODERM EXCELLENCE COURSE**

Since 2003, the EDF has been organizing the Euroderm Excellence course for residents in dermato-venereology. The renowned course is designed to promote the highest educational training to 4-year dermatology residents from all across Europe and overseas. The EDF Euroderm Excellence is the only course for dermatology residents at a European level. Each year 100 carefully selected residents with leadership potential in dermato-venereology are selected to participate in this course. Over the course of 3 days, leading international experts in the field of dermatology and venereology deliver relevant knowledge and offer the attendees state-of-the-art dynamic teaching program in European dermato-venereology through a series of lectures and workshops ([www.eurodermexcellence.com](http://www.eurodermexcellence.com))

## **EDF EUROPEAN DERMATOLOGY LEADERSHIP COURSE**

Since 2021, the EDF offers a new program to better prepare young clinicians and clinician scientists for their upcoming professional life. 20-25 dermatologists who have previously participated in the EDF Euroderm Excellence course are selected each year to join a 1-day teaching course prior to the EDF Annual Meeting in January. The EDF Board of Directors selects participants based on their scientific and clinical achievements. The goal is to select the best young dermatologists in Europe and offer them specific training and mentoring to better prepare them as future leaders within the dermatological society. Renowned speakers from all over Europe are invited to offer in depth training about how to successfully run a dermatological department in the future. Participation is by invitation only and requires previous participation in the EDF Euroderm Excellence course.

## PHYSICIAN SCIENTIST FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

As of this year, EDF introduces a new physician scientist fellowship program across Europe in collaboration with the Skin Science Foundation (SSF).

This program aims to equip physician scientists with cutting-edge techniques in translational research, new technologies, and Big Data Science through immersive training programs at specialized centers in Europe. 3-4 physician scientists will be able to complete a fellowship program (3-6 months) at translational research labs focusing on precision medicine to enhance knowledge exchange between labs across Europe in regard to methods for patient's stratification.





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Milan, Italy



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